

WASHINGTON, DC- Today, US Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Senator Herb Kohl announced \$1,053,272 million in federal funds for the Milwaukee Public School District are being made available this year. The funds, secured by Moore and Kohl will help support after-school and summer Community Learning Center (CLC) Programs for Milwaukee's youth.

"When I was first elected to Congress, one of my top priorities was to bring more federal resources back to the district," said Congresswoman Moore. "There is no way our children will be able to compete in the new global economy without the resources necessary to educate them. This investment will not only assist our public schools in achieving that goal but it will give our children a positive learning environment where they can go during the long summer months."

"After school programs provide an advantage for thousands of Milwaukee students who enroll in them throughout the school year," Kohl said. "This federal investment will help the programs flourish and grow, offering kids a safe place to study under adult supervision."

It was the positive learning environment provided to thousands of Milwaukee youth that led Senator Kohl and Congresswoman Moore last year to work with their colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fight for more funding for Milwaukee-area schools. In doing so, the two lawmakers were able to secure additional funding that will allow the MPS to comprehensively combat alarming trends facing students in Milwaukee during the school year and summer break.

Currently over 35% of MPS students in fourth and eighth grades are not proficient in reading and by the 10th grade over 60% of students are not proficient. In addition, only 68% of students graduate from MPS high schools. Furthermore, nearly one in four MPS students have special health care needs. The award from the federal government will be used to support comprehensive after-school and summer programs to assist MPS in providing a positive learning environment for students during critical hours after school.

MPS, in collaboration with Milwaukee-area community based organizations, will provide Milwaukee-area students and parents the ability to address many of the educational challenges they now face. The awarded funds will help MPS provide students from grades K-12 with additional learning opportunities, a safe place to go, and support for working parents.

“This money will go a long way towards the comprehensive education of our children,” said Congresswoman Moore. “Fundamentally, we as a society have a shared responsibility for the education of our young people and if we do not invest in our children now then we are setting ourselves up for failure in the future.”

“Our children benefit, but we benefit the most when we make their well being, safety and education our priorities as a society,” Kohl added.

Congresswoman Moore requested this funding from the House Appropriations Committee. Senator Kohl is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and included the funding in the FY08 Labor HHS Education appropriations bill.

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